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**STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**  
**BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**  
**HEARING ON H.R. 881, A BILL TO BAN SMOKING**  
**IN FEDERALLY LEASED AND OWNED BUILDINGS**

April 22, 1993

Chairman Traficant, I am pleased to join you and my distinguished colleagues at this hearing to consider H.R. 881, a bill to prohibit smoking in federally owned and leased buildings. I applaud you, Mr. Chairman, for your continuing interest in protecting federal workers from the negative effects of secondhand smoke, and welcome the witnesses who will appear before us this morning.

In spite of the fact that tobacco smoking has long been recognized as a leading cause of disease and death, 25.7 percent of Americans -- 46.3 million people -- smoked in 1991. Many of these people do not stop their smoking at the workplace, and, consequently, their co-workers have been, and continue to be, exposed to secondhand smoke. In recent years, medical and environmental studies have revealed that non-smokers, who are exposed to smoke exhaled by smokers, may be at risk for developing certain negative health effects associated with smoking.

In recognition of the dangers of passive smoking, there has been widespread implementation of policies to protect non-smokers. For instance, no longer can a person smoke on an airplane during a domestic flight and in some cities, such as New York, there is a total ban on smoking in municipal government buildings. By prohibiting all smoking in federally owned and leased buildings, H.R. 881 continues this sound practice of establishing smoking policies that reflect health and scientific findings on the risks of secondhand smoke.

H.R. 881 deserves our support. It is a cost-efficient measure that will provide federal employees with a healthy, smoke-free work environment as they provide the American people with faithful service. Again, my thanks to Chairman Traficant and to our witnesses here today.

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